

We claim:

1. A method for generating a graphical interface for one or more software applications having a command line interface, said method comprising the steps of:

5 querying a user to specify properties of one or more option groups provided by each of said software applications; and

generating a graphical user interface based on said specified properties for each of said software applications, said graphical user interface identifying each of said software applications and allowing a selected one of said software applications to be accessed.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said properties of each option group includes an indication of whether the various options within an option group can be used together.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said properties of each option group includes an indication of any input file requirements.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said properties of each option group includes a name of a corresponding software application.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said properties of each option group includes a location of a corresponding software application.

25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said graphical user interface allows a client to access a selected software application without regard to a location of said selected software application.

30 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said graphical user interface presents a client with only valid options for a selected software application.

8. A method for enabling remote access to one or more software applications having a command line interface, said method comprising the steps of:

querying a user to specify properties of one or more option groups provided by each of said software applications; and

generating a graphical user interface based on said specified properties for each of said software applications, said graphical user interface identifying each of said software applications and allowing one or more clients to remotely access a selected software application.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein a central server interacts with said one or more clients and a remote server where said selected software application is located.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said central server interacts with said one or more clients and said remote server using a remote server script.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said remote server script provides any necessary input files to said remote server, initiates the execution of said selected software application on said remote server and returns any results to said client.

12. A system for generating a graphical interface for one or more software applications having a command line interface, said system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

query a user to specify properties of one or more option groups provided by each of said software applications; and

generate a graphical user interface based on said specified properties for each of said software applications, said graphical user interface identifying each of said software applications and allowing a selected one of said software applications to be accessed.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said properties of each option group includes an indication of whether the various options within an option group can be used together.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein said properties of each option group includes an indication of any input file requirements.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein said properties of each option group includes a name of a corresponding software application.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein said properties of each option group includes a location of a corresponding software application.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein said graphical user interface allows a client to access a selected software application without regard to a location of said selected software application.

18. The system of claim 12, wherein said graphical user interface presents a client with only valid options for a selected software application.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein a central server interacts with one or more clients and a remote server where said selected software application is located.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said central server interacts with said one or more clients and said remote server using a remote server script.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein said remote server script provides any necessary input files to said remote server, initiates the execution of said selected software application on said remote server and returns any results to said client.

22. An article of manufacture for generating a graphical interface for one or more software applications having a command line interface, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

5 a step to query a user to specify properties of one or more option groups provided by each of said software applications; and

a step to generate a graphical user interface based on said specified properties for each of said software applications, said graphical user interface identifying each of said software applications and allowing a selected one of said software applications to be accessed.

10